U. S. Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE

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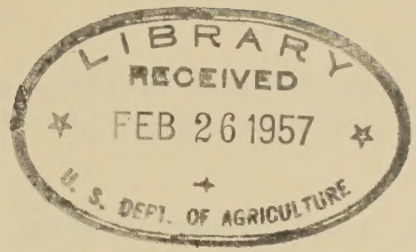


DATA RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL 4-H CLUB PROJECT ENROLLMENTS AND REENROLLMENT

From analysis of data from

phase I of Western States 4-H Club Study

of First-Year 4-H Club Members

(Supplement to Mimeograph 378 (4-50), Tables of Data From Western Region 4-H Club Study of First-Year Members, 1949)

Assembled and analyzed

by

Laurel K. Sabrosky

Extension Analyst
Division of Field Studies and Training

898 (9-50)

Table 1 calls attention to this finding:

(1) First-year 4-H Club boys and girls who enrolled in certain specific projects had a greater tendency to reenroll in 4-H work than did those enrolling in other specific projects.

The first figure (Chart 1) calls attention to these different findings:

(2) The tendency to reenroll in 4-H Club work, after having taken certain projects, varied with the age of the first-year member.

a. The livestock projects reenrolled a higher-than-average percentage of their first-year enrollees, regardless of age of member. However, the DAIRY project seemed to be less effective in holding the older first-year member than were the other livestock projects.

b. FORESTRY, FOOD SELECTION, and HEALTH first-year members who were 12 years of age or younger reenrolled at a higher rate than the average. (Chart 1, sections a. and b.). Those first-year boys and girls, however, who enrolled at the age of 13 or more reenrolled at a lower rate than the average for their age group (Chart 1, sections c. and d.).

c. First-year members enrolled in CLOTHING or POULTRY projects did not reenroll as actively as the average for the group, regardless of age. This tendency, however, was greater when the members were 10 years of age or less, or were 15 years of age or older.

d. The tendency for first-year members enrolled in GARDEN or RABBIT projects to drop out of 4-H Club work after 1 year was greatest when the member was 10 years of age or less. The deviation of these two projects below the age-group average grew less as the member was older. The reenrollment was above average for the group when the first-year member was 15 years of age or older.

Table 1.--Projects as related to reenrollment - first-year 4-H Club members in reorganized clubs

	Boys			Girls		
	Number		Percentage	Number		Percentage
	Total	Reenrolled	enrolled	Total	Reenrolled	reenrolled
Total number of project records	19,036	11,617	61	28,418	17,977	64
Agricultural projects:						
Other cereals	154	118	79	6	6	100
Other crops	195	140	73	20	13	65
Corn	172	121	71	11	8	73
Beef cattle	2,079	1,408	68	513	391	77
Sheep	825	554	68	288	225	80
Potatoes	221	146	68	17	17	100
Swine	1,725	1,126	66	226	169	76
Dairy cattle	2,643	1,707	65	540	402	75
Safety	219	141	65	69	39	57
Forestry	722	426	59	163	83	51
Soybeans, etc.	69	40	58	19	12	63
Home gardens	2,070	1,184	57	557	371	67
Poultry	1,477	824	56	348	218	64
Agricultural engineering, etc.	320	177	56	7	3	43
Home grounds	263	143	54	215	143	67
Horses and mules	239	122	53	134	75	56
Rabbits	1,217	631	52	247	157	64
Market gardens,etc.	109	51	48	20	11	65
Wildlife, etc.	55	17	31	12	7	58
Homemaking projects:						
Home management	13	8	62	92	67	73
Health	1,980	1,224	62	1,873	1,255	68
Home industries	401	258	64	139	92	66
Home furnishings	41	20	49	357	227	65
Food preservation	35	22	63	553	360	65
Food preparation and selection	1,053	615	59	7,000	4,523	65
Clothing	160	82	51	14,641	8,904	61
Other projects:						
Junior leadership	17	9	53	34	21	62
Others	562	303	54	317	178	56

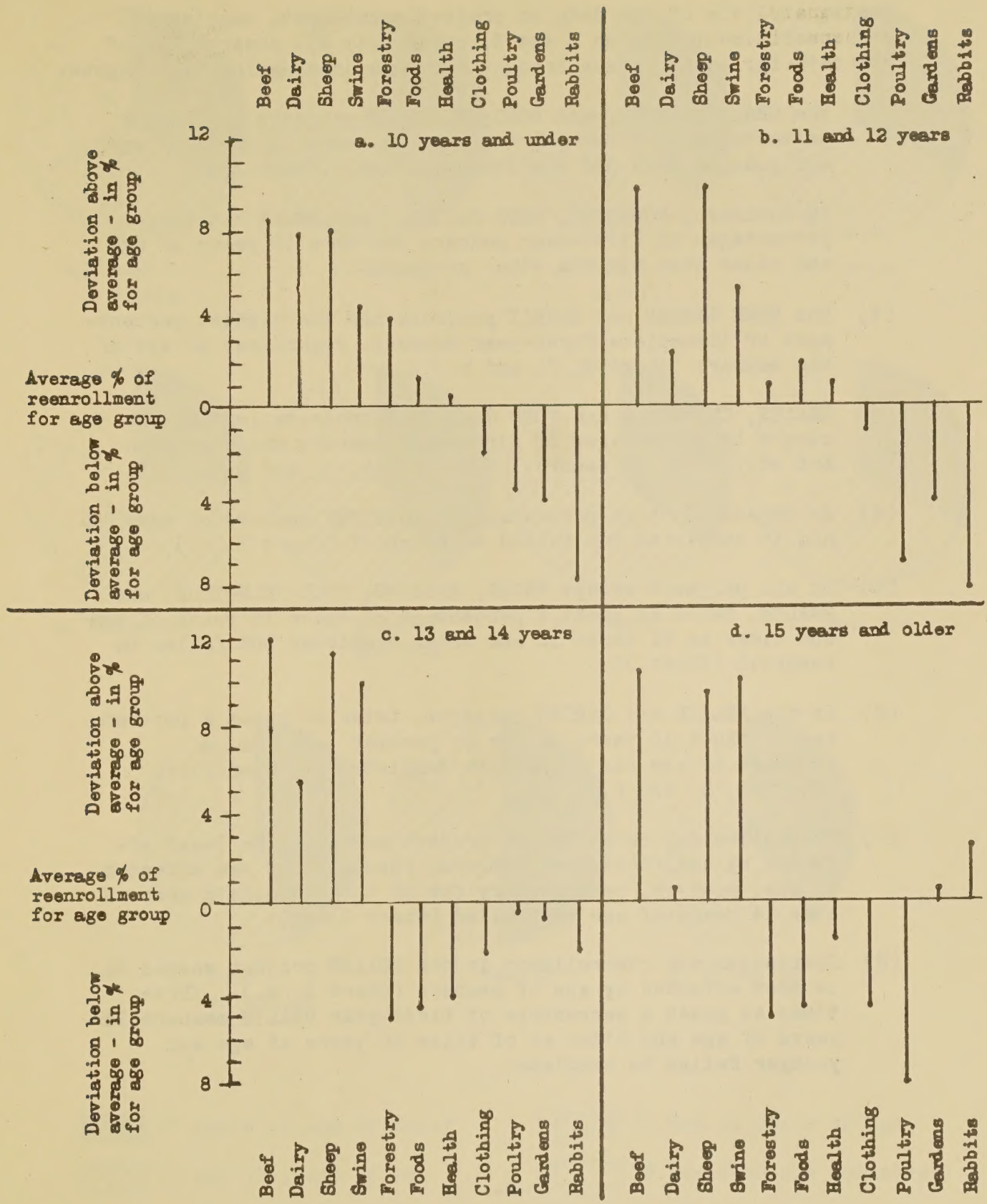


Chart 1.-- Differences between percentages of reenrollment in specific projects, at different age levels, and average reenrollments -- first-year 4-H Club members.

During analysis of the data on project enrollment, completion, and reenrollment (Charts 2 and 3, pages 5 to 9), observation of the data for each project brought out some interesting high lights:

(1) The HEALTH, SHEEP, and FOOD SELECTION projects had larger percentages of first-year members who were 10 years of age and younger than did the other projects (Chart 2).

In contrast, FORESTRY, BEEF CATTLE, and SWINE had larger percentages of first-year members who were 15 years of age and older than did the other projects.

(2) The HOME GARDEN and RABBIT projects had the highest percentages of incomplete first-year members, regardless of age of the members (Chart 3, f. and h.).

(3) HEALTH, CLOTHING, and FOOD SELECTION projects led all the others in percentages of first-year members who completed but still did not reenroll (Chart 3, k, j, and i.).

(4) An especially high percentage of FORESTRY members of ages 13 and 14 completed but failed to reenroll (Chart 3, e.).

(5) In all projects except SWINE, RABBITS, FOOD SELECTION, and HEALTH, twice as great a percentage of those 15 years of age and older as of those 10 and under completed but failed to reenroll (Chart 3).

(6) In the HEALTH and GARDEN projects, twice as great a percentage of those 10 years of age or younger as of those 15 years of age and older both completed and reenrolled (Chart 3, k. and f.).

(7) Completion for the FORESTRY project seemed to be least affected by age of first-year members; reenrollment was affected by age, however, because very few of the incomplete members over 14 years of age reenrolled (Chart 3, e.).

(8) Completion and reenrollment in the HEALTH project seemed to be most affected by age of members (Chart 3, k.). Three times as great a percentage of first-year HEALTH members 15 years of age and older as of those 10 years of age and younger failed to complete.

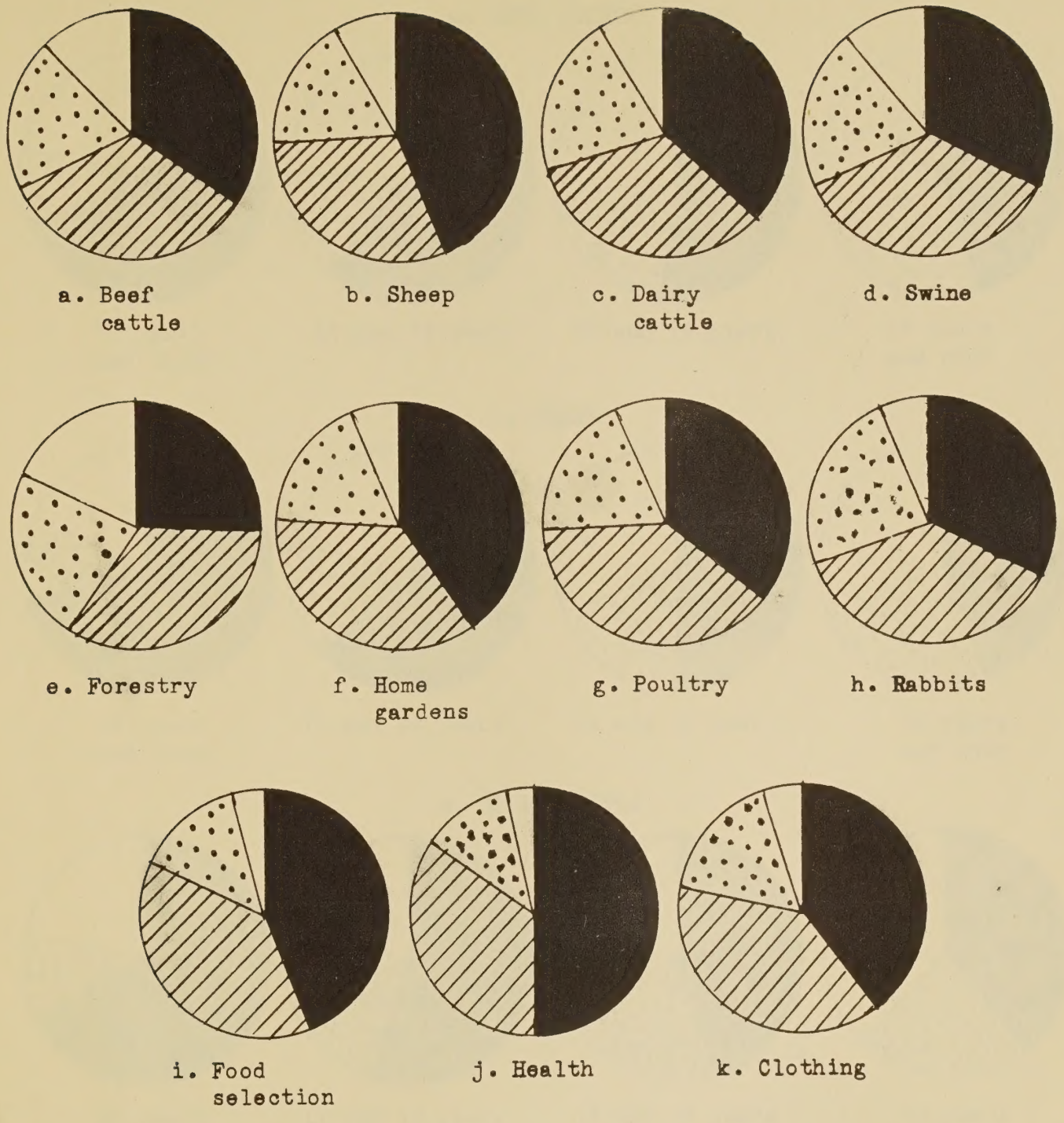
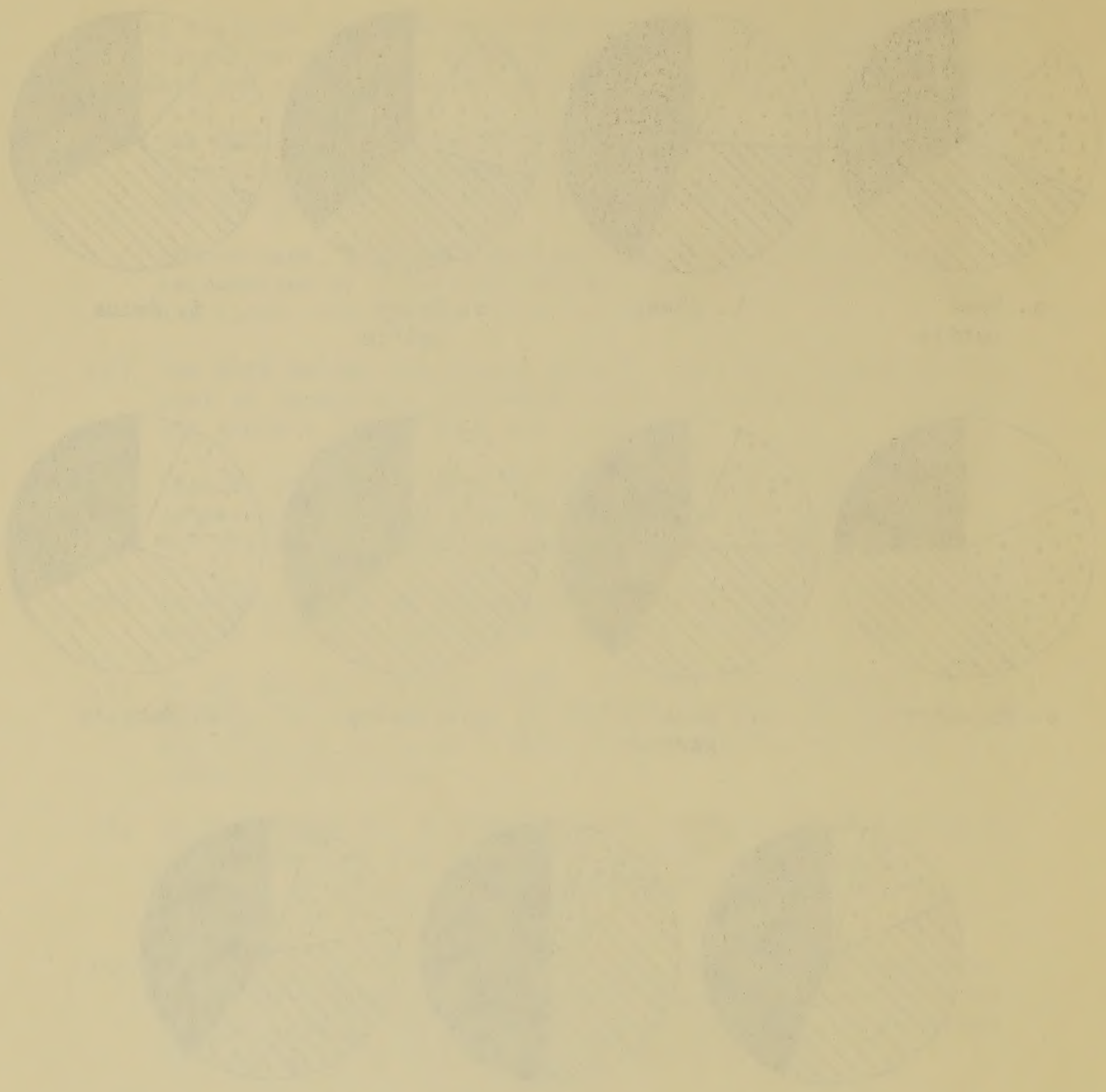
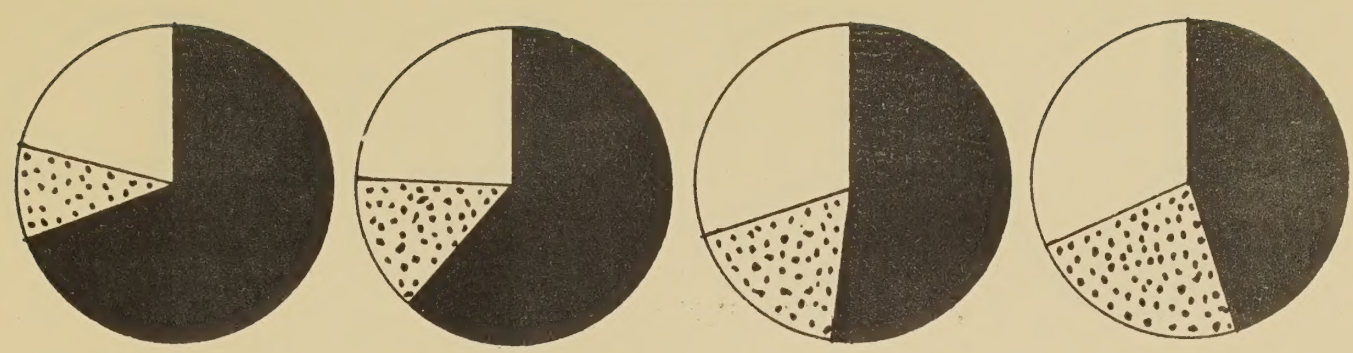


Chart 2.--Distribution of first-year project enrollees by age - in percentages.

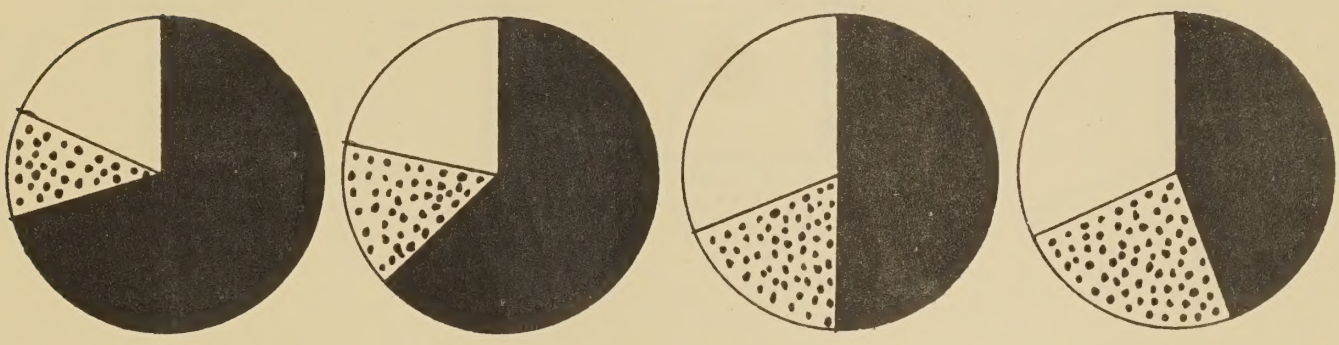


a. BEEF CATTLE



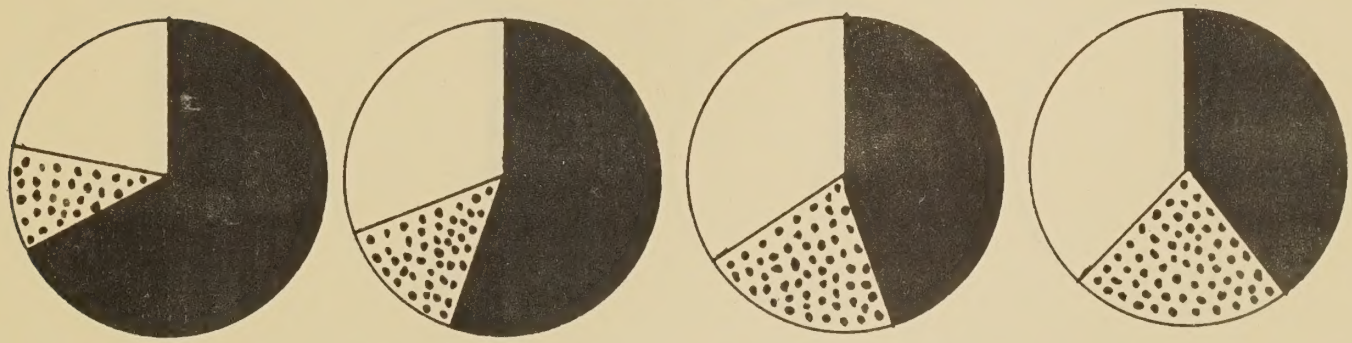
10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

b. SHEEP



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

c. DAIRY CATTLE



10 years a nd under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

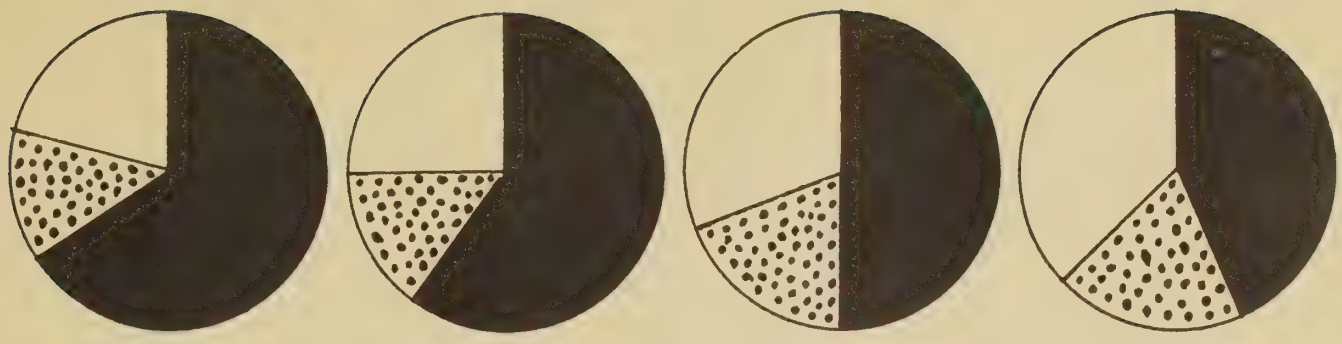
Completed and reenrolled

Completed but not reenrolled

Incomplete

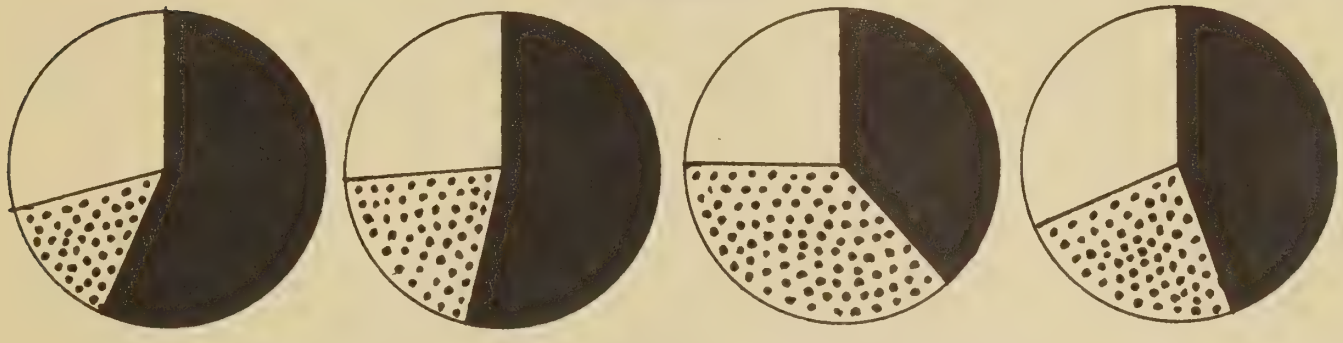
Chart 3.-- Percentage of first-year 4-H Club members in specific projects who completed and reenrolled, completed but did not reenroll, and failed to complete.

d. SWINE



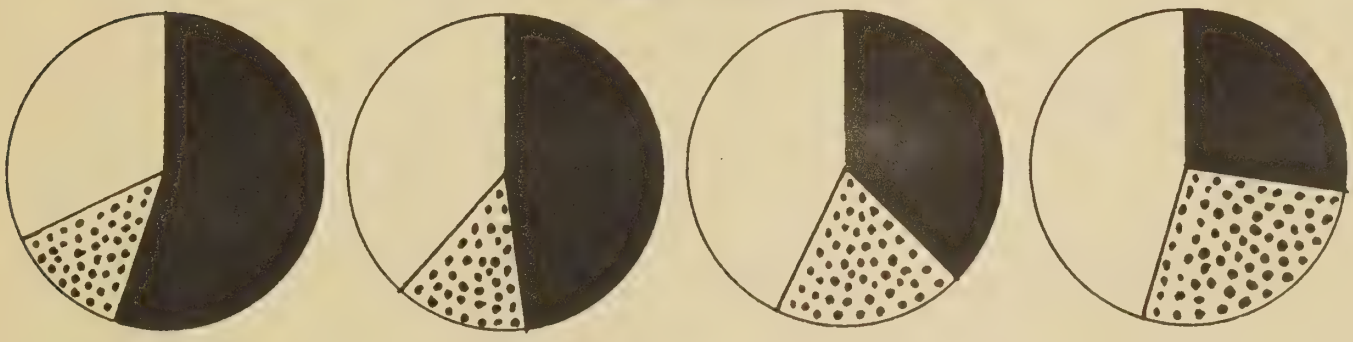
10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

e. FORESTRY



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

f. HOME GARDENS



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

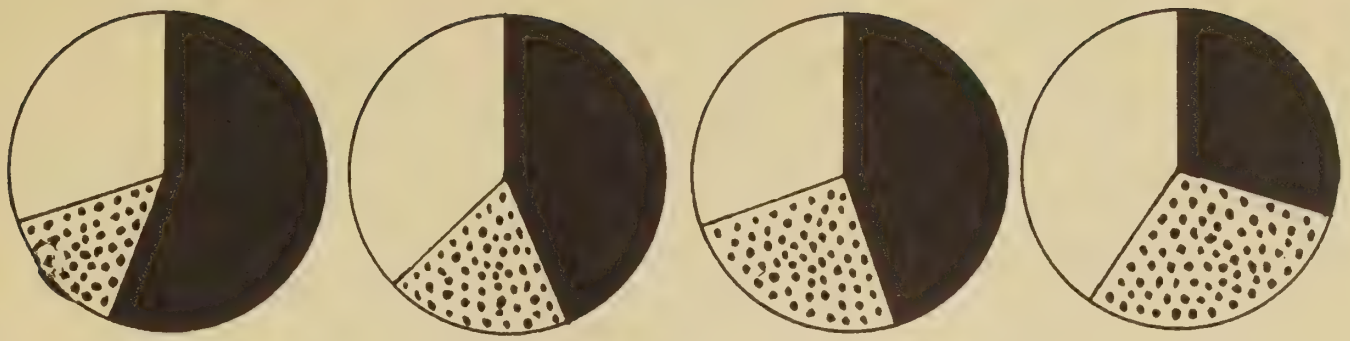
Completed and reenrolled

Completed but not reenrolled

Incomplete

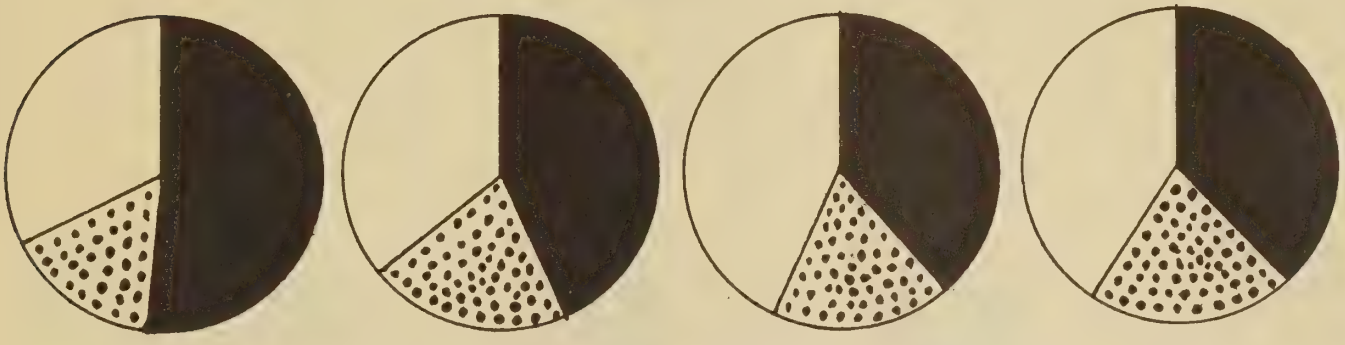
Chart 3.-- Percentage of first-year 4-H Club members in specific projects who completed and reenrolled, completed but did not reenroll, and failed to complete - Continued.

g. POULTRY



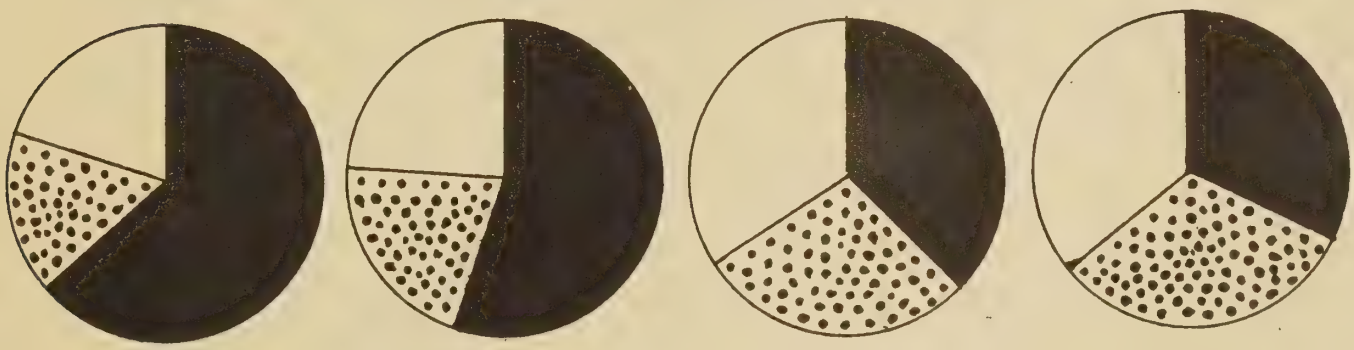
10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

h. RABBITS



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

i. FOOD SELECTION



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

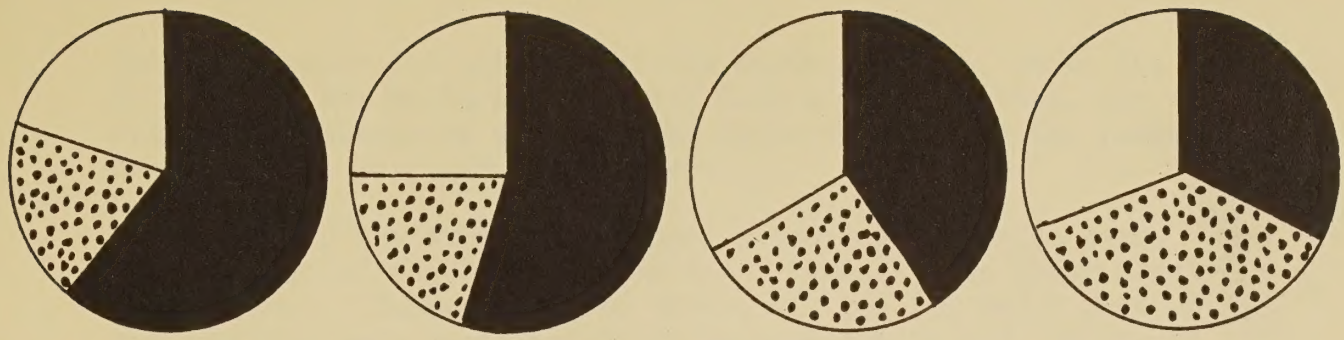
Completed and reenrolled

Completed but not reenrolled

Incomplete

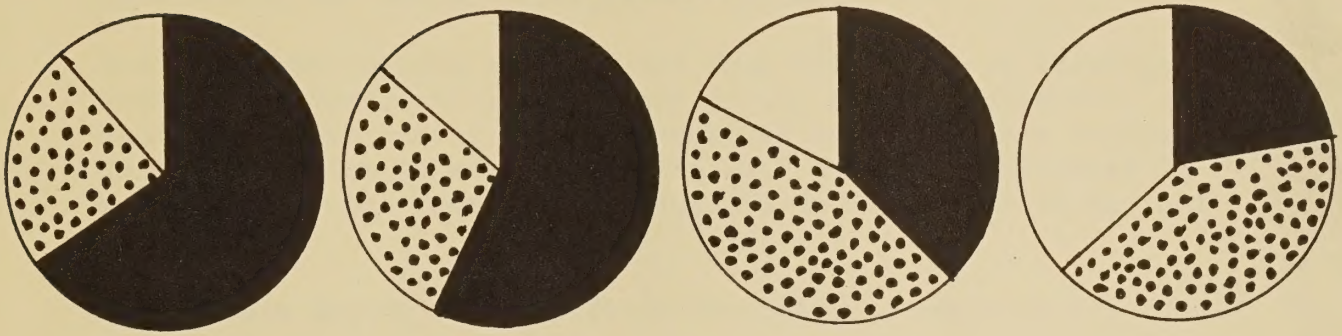
Chart 3.-- Percentage of first-year 4-H Club members in specific projects who completed and reenrolled, completed but did not reenroll, and failed to complete - Continued.

j. CLOTHING



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

k. HEALTH



10 years and under | 11 and 12 years | 13 and 14 years | 15 years and over

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Chart 3.-- Percentage of first-year 4-H Club members in specific projects who completed and reenrolled, completed but did not reenroll, and failed to complete - Continued.

SOURCE OF DATA

The State extension services of the Western region, under the guidance of the Western Region 4-H Club Study Committee, are carrying on an extensive study of the factors affecting the reenrollment of first-year 4-H Club members.

In phase I of the study, the county extension agents in every county in 10 of the States assembled information on their first-year members. These data were tabulated, and the major part of the findings were published in mimeograph 378 (4-50), Tables of Data From Western Region 4-H Club Study of First-Year Members, 1949, by the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

More detailed data were assembled by these extension agents on project enrollments, completions, and reenrollments than were contained in the above-mentioned tables. These data were tabulated and analyzed, and are presented in the figures in this leaflet. Table 1 in this leaflet is a reproduction of table 12 in the original set of mimeographed tables.

One other publication has resulted from this study of first-year 4-H Club members, and is a summary of the findings from four case studies of outstanding 4-H Club counties in the Western region. This publication is entitled "Going Up," a leaflet published in March 1950 by the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Western Region 4-H Club Study Committee is composed of:

C. O. Youngstrom, associate director, Idaho, chairman.
Mae Baird, field studies and planning specialist, Wyoming.
H. R. Baker, assistant director, Arizona.
Cecil G. Staver, State 4-H Club leader, Colorado.
M. Elmina White, assistant director, Washington.
Mrs. Laurel K. Sabrosky, extension analyst, U.S.D.A.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THESE DATA RAISE

1. Since we encourage 4-H Club members to take their own choice of projects, how can we bring about higher reenrollments in such low-reenrollment but basic projects as clothing and garden?

2. Can reenrollment methods be improved? Do they differ now from project to project? Can different appeals be used to reenroll boys and girls of different ages?

3. Can those projects which result in lower reenrollment of first-year members be so handled that they acquire some of the characteristics of those projects which have higher reenrollment?

4. Do individuals have enough leeway in selecting their own projects?

5. Are first-year members too often restricted to "first-year" projects, regardless of age?

6. Should there be an attempt to steer older first-year members into those projects which are best adapted to their maturity and social development? Dairy, forestry, garden, and health, as now handled in many of the States of the region, seem particularly unadapted to the older first-year members.

7. Are young first-year members "pushed" into garden and rabbit projects more than the older first-year members? Are 10- and 11-year-olds naturally uninterested in raising garden vegetables or taking care of "small livestock?" Or is there an environmental factor?

8. Is the first-year clothing project too advanced for the very young and not advanced enough for those 15 years of age and older? Girls change rapidly in development between the ages of 10 and 14, and earlier than boys do. Is this taken into consideration in making up first-year requirements in the clothing project?

9. Are completion requirements in clothing, food selection, and health of such a nature that they challenge and interest the members? Usually, completion is closely related to reenrollment. Why is this relationship less with these three projects?

10. Are some projects more likely than others to be carried in combination with other projects, so that failure to complete them has less effect on reenrollment?

11. In an earlier study in another region, percentage of reenrollment of first-year members in the clothing project was as high as for the livestock projects. Does the clothing project have different emphasis in the Western region, are only the first-year requirements different, or is there a cultural factor affecting the response?